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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/605,249	09/17/2003	Joseph E. Musil	03M1630	3332
24234	7590	12/09/2005	EXAMINER	
SIMMONS, PERRINE, ALBRIGHT & ELLWOOD, P.L.C. THIRD FLOOR TOWER PLACE 22 SOUTH LINN STREET IOWA CITY, IA 52240			ADDIE, RAYMOND W	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3671	

DATE MAILED: 12/09/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/605,249

Applicant(s)

MUSIL ET AL.

Examiner

Raymond W. Addie

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 September 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>8/16/05</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3, 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Reed # 5,553,969.

Reed discloses a road paving tractor (10) comprising:

A chassis (12) having a front (16) and rear end (14).

A hopper (74) disposed on the front end of said chassis.

A driver station (36), engine (26) and drive train (20, 24) configured to propel the road paving tractor, and a hydraulic system for empowering hydraulic lift cylinders.

Conveyor means (80, 132) for moving paving material from said hopper toward said rear end, such that said paving material is not dribbled below said tractor as material convey loops underneath said tractor.

An attachment coupling means/connection point assembly (144, 140, 138) coupled to said chassis and toward said rear end (14), wherein said attachment coupling means is configured to have an adjustable location, with respect to said chassis.

See Fig. 1; Col. 5, ln. 65-col. 6, ln. 55.

A detachable road paving tool (136), in the form of a paving screed box, attached to

said attachment coupling means (138, 140).

Wherein said attachment coupling means (144, 140, 138) being configured to temporarily receive one of a plurality of detachable road paving tool attachments.

Said chassis, hopper, engine driver station and said conveyor means for moving, being free from attachment to any paving screed, road widening strike-off blade, and radially and vertically adjustable material mover, of a type configured to move paving material at an upward angle away from said rear end, when said attachment coupling means is not coupled to any of said plurality of detachable road paving tool attachments.

Further wherein, said detachable road paving tool (136) is configured to be readily and repeatedly detached from and re-attached to the attachment coupling means via a linkage and pin assembly (144). See Col. 4, Ins. 1-29.

In regards to claims 3, 17, 18 Reed discloses the use of a hydraulic lift system (122) to assist in raising and lowering the coupling means/connection point assembly (138, 140, 144) but does not disclose what types of detachable road paving tool attachments are configured to be mated with the attachment coupling means, it is inherent from the linkage (144, and pins in link 138) the attachment (136) can be connected and disconnected from the attachment coupling means (138, 140), without the a need for weiding to occur during an attachment process.

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2. Claims 1-3, 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Banks et al. # 6,079,901.

Banks discloses a paving machine (10) comprising:

A chassis (12), a hopper (24), having an auger assembly (38.1-38.4), disposed on a front end of said hopper (24).

A driver station (22) having a seat and steering wheel. See Fig. 2.

An engine and drive train (18) coupled to said hopper and capable of propelling said machine (10) across a surface to form a roadway. See Col. 3.

An attachment coupling means (see highlighted section of fig. 1 enclosed), coupled to said chassis, and toward but not at a rear end of said machine (10), and being configured, as by connection to a vertically adjustable cylinder, to be vertically adjustable with respect to said chassis (12).

Said attachment coupling means being configured, as with a plurality of bolts , to temporarily receive a rearwardly extending tow arm, of a paving screed attachment (36).

Wherein said machine proper (10) is free from attachment to any paving screed, roadway widening strike-off blade, and radially and vertically adjustable material mover, of a type configured to move paving material at an upward angle away from said rear end, when said attachment coupling means is not coupled to any of said plurality of detachable road paving tool attachments.

Further, wherein said attachment coupling means is configured to operatively mate with a plurality of detachable road paving tool attachments without the need for welding to occur during mating. See col. 4, ln. 49-col. 6, ln. 6.

In regards to claim 16-18 Banks et al., discloses a hydraulic lift system (62) for assisting vertical adjustment of said vertically adjustable tow arms. See Col. 4, Ins. 36-48.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4-6, 11-14, 19, 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reed # 5,553,969 in view of Olson # 6,481,925 B1.

Reed discloses a road paving tractor having a detachable tool assembly (136) but does not disclose what other types of tool can be temporarily attached to said tractor.

However, Olson teaches it is known to provide road paving tractors with detachable work implements, such as screed assemblies, hot mix asphalt transfer tool attachments and road widening implements. See Figs. 3-5.

Olson explicitly discloses the advantages of providing an attachment coupling means (32, 36) in order to increase the utility of a single prime mover (10), by reducing the number of individual vehicles and operators necessary to utilize each of the now detachable road paving implements. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made to provide the paving machine of Reed, with a plurality of detachable, work implements, as taught by Olson,

in order to increase the utility of a single prime mover (10), by reducing the number of individual vehicles and operators necessary to utilize each of the now detachable road paving implements, as explicitly taught by Olson. See Figs. 1-5; Col. 2, ln. 22-col. 4, ln. 17. Emphasis on Col. 3, ln. 59-col. 4, ln. 17.

In regards to Claims 11-14 Reed discloses a method of deploying road paving machine comprising the steps of:

Providing a paving tractor with a 1st detachable road paving tool attachment (136) operatively coupled thereto at a 1st connection point that is on a vertically adjustable pull arm (140).

What Reed does not disclose is a method of replacing the detachable tool attachment (136), with other, different types of detachable work implements.

However, Olson teaches a known method of replacing detachable work implements on a paving tractor, comprising the steps of:

Replacing said 1st tool attachment (100) with any of a plurality of second detachable road paving tool attachments (70 or 80) without welding or cutting metal at said 1st connection point.

Wherein said 1st detachable road paving tool attachment (100) is configured to perform a substantially different task than said 2nd tool attachments.

Further wherein said paving tractor (10) is a self-propelled vehicle configured to be

driven by a driver located on and at a rear end (22) of the paving tractor (10) said paving tractor further comprising a hopper (24) disposed forward of said rear end (22), and means (40) for conveying paving material from said hopper to said rear end. See col. 3, ln. 59-col. 4, ln. 17. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made to provide the paving machine of Reed, with a plurality of detachable, work implements, as taught by Olson, in order to increase the utility of a single prime mover (10), by reducing the number of individual vehicles and operators necessary to utilize each of the now detachable road paving implements, as explicitly taught by Olson.

Although Olson does not disclose lowering the attachments (34) onto a support surface, which is not the ground; it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the attachment(s) were being disconnected from the tractor (10); to place the attachment, such as (100) being disconnected, onto a support surface, other than the ground, via vertically adjustable pull arms, in order to increase safety and minimize change-out time of each attachment. See Figs. 1-5; Col. 2, ln. 22-col. 4, ln. 17. Emphasis on Col. 3, ln. 59-col. 4, ln. 17.

4. Claims 1-6, 10-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Macku et al. # 6,071,040 in view of Olson # 6,481,925 B1.

Macku et al. discloses a method of deploying a road paving machine (1) comprising the steps of:

Providing a paving tractor (3) with a 1st detachable road paving tool (11) operatively coupled thereto at a 1st connection point such as on tow arms, see Fig. 1.

Wherein said paving tractor (3) is a self-propelled vehicle configured to be driven by a driver located on and at a rear end of said paving tractor. Said paving tractor further comprising a hopper (7) disposed forward of said rear end and means (5) for conveying paving material from said hopper to said rear end. See col. 3, ln. 56-col. 4, ln. 52.

What Macku et al. does not disclose is replacing the 1st detachable paving tool attachment (11) with a 2nd and different type of paving tool attachment.

However, Olson discloses it is desirable to provide a paving tractor with a plurality of interchangeable road paving implements without welding, or cutting metal at the connection point. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made to provide the method of deploying a paving machine of Macku et al., with the step of interchanging detachable road paving implements from a paving tractor, as taught by Olson, in order to maximize the utility of the paving machine.

In regards to Claims 12-14 Macku et al. discloses the use of paving machine, having a paving screed (11) detachably mounted to a pair of vertically adjustable tow arms (see fig. 1), which are powered by an engine mounted on the paving machine (1) but does not disclose replacing the screed with a different paving tool.

However, Olson teaches a method for attaching/detaching the various detachable paving tool attachments (34) to the tractor (10), to accommodate specific road paving tasks. Although Olson does not disclose lowering the attachments (34) onto a support surface, which is not the ground;

it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the attachment(s) were being disconnected from the tractor (10); to place the attachment, such as (100) being disconnected, onto a support surface, other than the ground, via vertically adjustable pull arms, in order to increase safety and minimize change-out time of each attachment. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made to provide the method of deploying a paving machine of Macku et al., with the steps of disconnecting a 1st paving tool and attaching a 2nd paving tool to the paving tractor, as taught by Olson in order to maximize the utility of the paving tractor.

In regards to Claim 15 Macku et al. discloses a road paving system comprising:

A road paving tractor (3) further comprising:

A chassis having a front and rear end.

A hopper (7) for receiving and containing road paving material, and is disposed
at and coupled to said front end.

A plurality of paving material moving augers disposed at least in part, in said hopper, for
moving paving material from said hopper toward said rear end.

An engine, coupled to said chassis for providing motive force to propel said road paving tractor.

Vertically adjustable arms coupled to said chassis for providing movement of a connection point at a rear end thereof. See highlighted portion of Fig. 1 attached hereto.

A hydraulic system, coupled to said chassis and receiving power from said engine, said hydraulic system for vertical adjustment of said vertically adjustable arm. See Fig. 1.

At least one detachable road paving tool attachment (11) configured to mate with said connection point of said adjustable arm. Such that manipulation of said vertically adjustable arm, via said hydraulic system, results in at least a vertical displacement of the at least one detachable road paving tool attachment.

Wherein said at least one detachable paving tool attachment further configured when coupled to said vertically adjustable arm to cause road paving material in contact therewith, to be relocated in a predetermined manner.

Further wherein said at least one detachable paving tool attachment is operatively attachable and detachable to said connection point without either welding and cutting any structural metal components of the paving tractor or the at least one detachable paving tool. What Macku et al. does not disclose is the use of a plurality of detachable paving tools. However, Olson teaches it is desirable to increase the utility of a single prime mover (10), by reducing the number of individual vehicles and operators

necessary to utilize each of the now detachable road paving implements, such as a paving screed attachment (34) see Fig. 5; a hot mix asphalt transfer tool attachment (80) comprising a elevating means (86), in the form of a vertically swinging slat conveyor (86), see Fig. 4; and a road widening attachment (100) comprising a road widener strike-off blade (106), a road widener end gate (unnumbered, see lower section of Fig. 5), end-gate angle control link, and a road widener strike-off blade angle control link (108). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made to provide the paving machine of Macku et al. with a plurality of detachable paving tool attachments, as taught by Olson, in order to reduce the number of prime movers and operators necessary to perform individual road paving tasks. See Olson cols. 3-4.

In regards to Claims 19, 20 Macku et al. discloses a paving tractor (3) having a driver seat and hydraulic controls, see Figs. 1, 4, 6, 7, having a detachable paving screed (11) attached thereto, via tow arms, but does not disclose providing a detachable road widening attachment. However, However, Olson teaches it is desirable to increase the utility of a single prime mover (10), by reducing the number of individual vehicles and operators necessary to utilize each of the now detachable road paving implements, such as a paving screed attachment (34/70) see Fig. 5; and a road widening attachment (100) comprising a road widener strike-off blade (106), a road widener end gate

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(unnumbered, see lower section of Fig. 5), end-gate angle control link, and a road widener strike-off blade angle control link (108). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made to provide the paving machine of Macku et al. with a plurality of detachable paving tool attachments, as taught by Olson, in order to reduce the number of prime movers and operators necessary to perform individual road paving tasks. See Olson cols. 3-4.

5. Claims 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Macku et al. # 6,071,040 in view of Olson # 6,481,925 B1 as applied to claim 5 above and further in view of Brock et al. # 5,035,534.

Macku et al., in view of Olson disclose it is desirable to provide a paving machine (10) with a plurality of detachable paving tool attachments, to include screeds, road wideners and hot mix transfer attachment (80). What Macku et al. in view of Olson does not disclose is whether the hot mix transfer attachment (80) can swing horizontally as well as vertically. However, Brock et al. teaches it is known to provide hot mix asphalt transfer devices (10) with at least one vertically and horizontally swinging slat conveyors (65), such that the discharge end of conveyor (65) may be swung beyond the lateral extremities of the transfer device (10). Therefore, it would have been obvious to provide the mix transfer attachment of Macku et al. in view of Olson with a horizontally and vertically swing able slat type conveyor, as taught by Brock et al., in order to place the discharge end of the conveyor at a desired location relative to the paving tractor. See Figs. 1, 2; Col. 5, Ins. 1-12.

Response to Amendment

6. Applicant's amendment to Claim 1 has overcome the Claim Objection cited in the Last Office Action.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed 9/30/05, with respect to the drawing objections have been fully considered and they are persuasive. Hence, the drawing objections cited in Last Office Action have been withdrawn.

8. Applicant's arguments filed 9/30/05, with respect to the 35 U.S.C. 102, 103 rejections of claims 1-20 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues against the reference to Reed by stating "In paragraph 4...the Examiner states: 'Reed...does not disclose what other types of tool can be temporarily attached to said tractor...because Reed does not disclose ANY type of tool that is temporarily attached to the tractor'...It is clear that Reed does not teach any such attachments and does not even suggest the desirability of readily and repeatedly detaching and re-attaching an attachment...There is no structure or text in Reed which teach the notion or desirability of not welding an attachment...The spreader box 136 is shown and described as being adjustable up and down but there is no teaching of any repeated detaching and attaching without welding".

Applicant then suggests "Claim 1 includes...which is clearly not taught or suggested by Reed...Said attachment coupling means being configured so as to have an adjustable location with respect to said chassis...said attachment coupling means configured to temporarily receive one of a plurality of detachable road paving tool attachments...Reed does not have any such attachments...The failure of Reed to teach an attachment coupling means which is adjustable with respect to the chassis is not overcome, nor is it cited as being overcome by the Olson reference".

However, the Examiner does not concur.

Firstly, Applicant's citation of Paragraph 4 of the Last Office Action, is not related to Claim 1, since Paragraph 4 is a 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection of claims 4-6, 11-14, 19, 20 as being unpatentable over Reed # 5,553,969 in view of Olson # 6,481,925 B1. And is not drawn to the 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejection of Claim 1, as argued above. The fact the Examiner recognizes the primary reference to Reed does not teach a feature of the dependent claims, which is taught by the secondary reference to Olson (the actual attachments as claimed in claims 4-6, 12-14; is irrelevant to the rejection of claim 1, since Claim 1 does not require the claimed "road paving tractor" to have any attachments, attached to said attachment coupling means.

A careful reading of Claim 1 only requires "attachment coupling means **being configured** so as to have an adjustable location with respect to said chassis; said attachment coupling means **configured to temporarily receive one of a plurality of**

detachable road paving tool attachments, wherein each of said plurality of detachable road paving tool attachments **is configured to** be readily and repeatedly detached...without welding".

Hence, Claim 1 does not require any road paving tool attachments; rather, Claim 1 only requires the road paving tractor to be configured, somehow, to be configured to temporarily receive any one of a plurality of unclaimed road paving tools, without welding.

To that affect, Reed Clearly illustrates the necessary linkage (140, 144) having pins, bolts or the like interconnecting the paving screed box (136) to the vertically adjustable arm (140) having a vertically adjustable connection point, between element (140 and 144) as well as between vertical arm (144) and box (136).

Further, Applicant is reminded the excessive use of the phrase "configured to" or "configured for" is not a structural limitation in any sense, and only requires the most basic of structure able to perform the function that is claimed. And hence, cannot be used to preclude the teachings of the prior art.

Therefore, Applicant's arguments are not persuasive and the 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejection of claims 1-3, 16-18 is maintained.

Since Applicant has not put forth any specific arguments in favor of claims 4-6, 11-14, 19, 20 as being unpatentable over Reed # 5,553,969 in view of Olson # 6,481,925 B1;

and in particular has failed specifically point out how the language of the claims patentably distinguishes them from the references, it appears as though Applicant is in agreement with the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection of claims 4-6, 11-14, 19, 20.

Applicant then argues against the rejection of claims 1-6, 10-20 as being obvious over Macku in view of Olson by suggesting "There is a reason that Macku does not teach a different type of paving tool attachment...Macku does not teach ANY type of paving tool attachment as is now...defined in the claims as amended...The screed 11 of Macku is NOT detachable...It is not configured to be readily and repeated detached and re-attached without welding".

However, the Examiner does not concur.

Figure 1 of Macku et al., clearly illustrates the front of the tow arm (unnumbered) attached to a plate via 4 bolts or pins, to a vertically adjustable cylinder (unnumbered) for raising and lowering the paving screed attachment (9/11) to the machine proper. Further it would be obvious that either bolts or pins can be removed without welding.

Applicant then argues against the rejection of claims 7-9 as being unpatentable over Macku et al. # 6,071,040 in view of Olson # 6,481,925 B1 as applied to claim 5 above and further in view of Brock et al. # 5,035,534 by suggesting "since these claims are all dependent from claim 1, the same limitations in claim 1 that are not taught by the combination of Reed and Olson, or Macku (et al.) and Olson...Moreover, the Examiner

is not even alleging that Brock teaches an attachment with an adjustable connection point".

However, the Examiner does not concur.

Applicant is reminded claims 7-9 only require the use of a swinging slat conveyor and swinging slat conveyor pivot support...a swinging slat conveyor-raising mechanism, and an elevator assembly coupled to said rear end for receiving hot mix asphalt.

To which Brock et al. teaches it is known to provide hot mix asphalt transfer devices (10) with at least one vertically and horizontally swinging slat conveyors (65), such that the discharge end of conveyor (65) may be swung beyond the lateral extremities of the transfer device (10). Therefore, it would have been obvious to provide the mix transfer attachment of Macku et al. in view of Olson with a horizontally and vertically swing able slat type conveyor, as taught by Brock et al., in order to place the discharge end of the conveyor at a desired location relative to the paving tractor. See Figs, 1, 2; Col. 5, lns. 1-12.

Therefore, the arguments are not persuasive and the rejection is maintained.

Conclusion

9. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

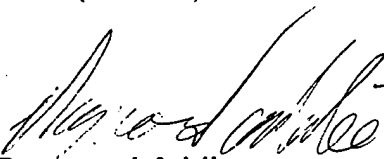
MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Lutz # 4,865,487 discloses a detachable screed. Domenighetti et al. # 5,009,546 discloses a road paving machine. Bassett et al. # 5,201,603 discloses the specific structural features (42, 46, 50) necessary to raise, lower and attach a screed attachment (40) to a paving machine. Heller et al. # 5,203,642 discloses an asphalt paver. Nowak et al. # 6,074,129 discloses a screed attachment assembly.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Raymond W. Addie whose telephone number is 571 272-6986. The examiner can normally be reached on 6AM-2:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas B. Will can be reached on 571 272-6998. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Raymond Addie
Patent Examiner
Group 3600

12/06/05

